Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection

March 30, 2021

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski
Senator, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4085
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: SB 274 (Wieckowski) Local government meetings: agendas and documents

RE: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Wieckowski,

On behalf of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water), I am pleased to inform you that our agency has adopted a position of support on Senate Bill 274, which would require a local agency with an internet website to email a copy of, or a website link to, the agenda and all documents constituting the agenda packet if the person requests that the items be delivered by email.

Valley Water is the regional water supply, flood protection, and stream stewardship agency for the 2 million people and thousands of job-creating businesses of Santa Clara County. The only water utility in California that is both a state and federal water contractor, our agency is engaged in water policy at the local, regional, state, and federal levels. Valley Water manages 10 reservoirs and dams, 3 water treatment plants, the largest advanced purified water facility in Northern California, 400 acres of groundwater recharge ponds, and 2 large groundwater basins. The agency constructs and maintains the region's water supply and flood protection infrastructure, managing 275 miles of creeks and streams.

The Ralph M. Brown Act requires meetings of the legislative body of a local agency to be open and public, and requires meetings to be held within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, with some exceptions. Existing law authorizes a person to request that a copy of an agenda and all the documents constituting the agenda packet be mailed to that person by the local agency.

SB 274 would provide an alternative method for local agencies to deliver requested agenda and/or agenda documents, that could The Santa Clara Valley Water District is pleased to support SB 274. If you or your staff have any questions or need other assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 448-8497.

Sincerely,

Bart Broome

Bart Broome
Assistant Officer for
State Government Relations